

PAPERS DATED: June 16 2004

Inventor: Anthony H-Y Wong

Serial No: 10/771,672

Filing date: February 3, 2004

For "Shopping Aid"

Exhibit B –

a clean copy of the affected sheets: pp 29 - 39

[0099] Figure 14 is a conceptual view of a 3-legged hybrid shopping basket/vehicle. Note also that the control release mechanism has been modified. The front scissors-leg (14.4) pivots at an intermediate crossbeam with the rear legs. Elements in the design of vehicles of this type can be extracted from Marcouiller (US 2,531,856) and Dirkin (US 1,081,221), which are incorporated by reference here as if reproduced in full. The trigger and control handle (14.6) mechanism is also modified, shown here in a front position on the shopping basket.

[0100] The hybrid shopping basket/vehicle combinations of the invention have in common:

1. a shopping basket, said shopping basket further being generally lightweight for carrying, of a material selected from rigid or semi-rigid, and having rim, base, and walls not foldable or disassemblable;
2. a plurality of legs attached at pivots to said shopping basket, further pivoting between a legs-up configuration wherein said plurality of legs are triggerably cocked and secured generally parallel to said base when undeployed, and a legs-down configuration wherein said plurality of legs stand upright and lock when deployed;
3. a means for releasably securing said plurality of legs generally apposed to the base of said shopping basket in a legs-up configuration;
4. a means for triggering release and deployment of said plurality of legs from said legs-up configuration to said legs-down configuration;
5. when freestanding in said legs-down configuration, inferiorly attached wheels for wheeling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.

[0101] The devices may also have an undercarriage from which the pivoting legs append, and the undercarriage with legs may be separable and detachable from the basket for easy replacement or cleaning.

[0102] These hybrid shopping basket/vehicle combinations are specially adapted for a method of shopping comprising the steps of:

1. At times when carrying a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle of claim 1, a step for triggering deployment of said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, whereupon said shopping basket may be freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels;
2. At times when said shopping basket is freestandingly rested on said legs and inferiorly attached wheels, a step for rolling said shopping basket as a wheeled vehicle from place to place.

[0103] The embodiments of a hybrid shopping basket/vehicle and methods of use described herein describe the invention so that it may be practiced, but do not limit the invention to the embodiments only as described. The invention is inclusive of any accessory elements, variants or modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art upon study of this disclosure.

EXAMPLE 1

[0104] A 1:1 scale model of the triggering release mechanism and mechanical train of Figure 4 was built. The compound scissors tongs and center arm disk were cut from acrylic sheet with a band saw. The detent receiver and detent pin are dimensioned in Figures 3 and 4 from the model. Using the custom-built scissors tongs, the flying crossplates and their slots in the longitudinal beams were then sized and designed. The mechanism was demonstrated to operate essentially as shown in Figures 5 through 8. A